Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

October 1993

New Elders to Support Churches by Listening

By Rev. Kittredge Cherry

Two newcomers, Revs. Hong Tan and Darlene Garner, will join five experienced elders this month as the Board of Elders meets.

Both have extensive UFMCC experience at the local, district and denominational levels, and in recent interviews they expressed a desire to continue listening and learning in order to support local churches.

"My strengths include the ability to listen to all sides of any question and to synthesize information," Rev. Garner said. "I'm anxious to get a handle on the role that the Board of Elders can play in supporting our existing churches and helping to establish new churches."

Rev. Tan noted, "A major question is: How do we develop denominational structures that facilitate meeting the needs of the people in local churches? One of my main roles will be to listen and empower the answers to come from the people."

Both new elders also expect that their own personal experience of diversity will be an asset as they serve an increasingly diverse denomination.

"I bring the awareness and perspective of having worked in a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-national district," said Rev. Tan, who has been European North Sea District Coordinator since 1990. Born in Singapore, Rev. Tan has lived in London from the age of 8. He is the first and only ordained Asian clergy person and Asian district coordinator in UFMCC.

Revs. Darlene Garner, left, and Hong Tan were moved to tears when they were ordained as elders in July.

Photo by Mr. William Tom

"I believe the diversity of my own background helps me appreciate the diversity of MCC," said Rev. Garner, who has African, Cherokee, Mohawk and Irish ancestry. She has pastored MCC of Northern Virginia for nearly three years.

Both say that they are continuing to grapple with the implications of the elders' election in July, when for the first time in UFMCC history all openings were filled by people of color. (The third position was filled by the re-election of Mr. Larry Rodriguez.)

"I hope the election reflects a movement of the Spirit among the body and that we truly do cherish the gifts of all of our people. To the extent that the Board of Elders may not have appeared to reflect our demographics, the '93 election brings us closer in some ways to doing so," Rev. Garner said.

Rev. Tan stated, "There certainly was a very powerful moving of God's spirit. God's will comes through the people. It for me was a God-incidence that it coincided with our 25th anniversary. It was a symbol of God's faith in us, that we are here for all people."

Each of the new elders also hopes to focus attention on specific areas of interest. As an elder, Rev. Tan is especially interested in welcoming people of color, particularly Asian/Pacific Islander people, and in Total Quality Management, a tool for evaluation and review of programs that he introduced to General Council while serving as a district coordinator.

Concerns that Rev. Garner brings to the Board of Elders include spiritual support for pastors and pastoral leaders, ethics for UFMCC leaders at all levels, resource development, translation, and setting realistic expectations Fellowship-wide so that people are not set up to fail.

"Everyone's been so encouraging, supportive and kind," Rev. Tan said. "I've been doing a lot of thinking and praying and dreaming this month about the possibilities for UFMCC." ❐

Fellowship Sunday Focuses on Translation

Translation of UFMCC materials into various languages is the focus of Fellowship Sunday offerings as the Fellowship marks its 25th anniversary.

Every October each MCC is asked to designate a Fellowship Sunday to commemorate UFMCC's founding and to receive a special offering that day.

"This year I want to honor our first quarter-century of ministry by contributing to the translation of UFMCC resources into languages other than English," said Rev. Troy Perry, UFMCC founder and moderator. "Translation is absolutely essential in order to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to the world." ❐

Happy 25th Anniversary, UFMCC!

Founded October 6, 1968

UFMCC Attends Youth Meeting

UFMCC helped ensure that lesbian and gay rights were thoroughly discussed at the Ecumenical Global Gathering of Youth and Students July 10-27 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Sponsored by the World Council of Churches and other organizations, the EGGYS conference gathered 500 participants from at least 33 nations throughout the world, including Rev. Isabel Amorim, UFMCC's national ecumenical liaison for Brazil.

"One young man came out to me after our first meeting as a Human Rights Group," Rev. Amorim reported. "I said who I was in the group and that I was there for gay civil rights, religious rights, and to denounce bashings and killings. He told me he is working with MCC Adelaide (Australia), as a part-timer, in their AIDS project."

These two people, touched by UFMCC on opposite sides of the globe, soon gathered a group of about 20 supporters of lesbian and gay rights to meet daily on the lawn for lunch.

The most intensive debate of lesbian and gay rights occurred after a dramatization staged by the Human Rights Group, including Rev. Amorim, connected various forms of oppression ranging from homophobia, the Cuban embargo, violence against women and the need to free Palestinians. ❐

In Memory

Mr. Stephen Endean

Mr. Stephen Endean, MCC member and lesbian/gay civil rights leader, died Aug. 4 at his home in Washington, DC of AIDS. He was 44. Mr. Endean was a former executive director of the Gay Rights National Lobby and founder of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Memorial services were held at MCC Washington and All God's Children MCC in Minneapolis, MN. Contributions may be made in his name to HRCF or MCC Washington.

Rev. Brian J. Hanlon

Rev. Brian J. Hanlon, clergy on staff at MCC Omaha, NE, died Aug. 16 of complications related to AIDS. He was 34. Rev. Hanlon first joined UFMCC in Pueblo, CO, and served as student clergy at MCC Omaha. He founded MCC Sioux City, IA in 1991 and was licensed as UFMCC clergy in 1992. Rev. Hanlon is survived by his spouse, Mr. Michael Burger, his mother and a sister. Memorial gifts may be made to MCC Omaha or the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Top 20 Tithes - July 1993

1.	Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX	US $	5,469.23
2.	Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL		2,144.19
3.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		2,081.65
4.	MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN $	1,357.93
5.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL		1,227.77
6.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		1,198.02
7.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,165.12
8.	MCC of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City, MO		1,101.02
9.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,034.84
10.	MCC of the Rockies, Denver, CO		923.92
11.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		922.56
12.	River City MCC, Sacramento, CA		905.35
13.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		743.90
14.	Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		726.02
15.	All God's Children MCC, Minneapolis, MN		651.06
16.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		604.34
17.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA		601.48
18.	MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA		601.09
19.	MCC Louisville, Louisville, KY		576.33
20.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		549.62

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

Top 20 Per Capita - July 1993

1.	MCC Silverlake, Los Angeles, CA	US $	40.37
2.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		36.18
3.	MCC Hartford, Hartford, CT		34.39
4.	MCC in Charlottesville, Charlottesville, VA		27.38
5.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		26.05
6.	Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY		25.99
7.	Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD		25.08
8.	MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA		24.56
9.	New Life MCC, Berkeley, CA		24.35
10.	Divine Peace MCC, Madison Heights, MI		22.93
11.	MCC Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany	DM	22.26
12.	Christ the Liberator MCC, New Brunswick, NJ		22.09
13.	MCC Ocean of Life, Costa Mesa, CA		21.68
14.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		21.37
15.	New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC		21.11
16.	Church With a Vision MCC, Longview, TX		20.83
17.	Morning Star MCC, Worcester, MA		20.66
18.	MCC San Jose, San Jose, CA		20.58
19.	Reconciliation MCC, Grand Rapids, MI		20.40
20.	Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA		19.40

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

Keeping in Touch is a monthly publication of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. We are a church of the lesbian and gay community, open to all. Our mission is to call people to new life through the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ, confront injustice through Christian social action, and create a community of healing and reconciliation.

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Editorial Board:
Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Moderator
Mr. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration
Rev. Kittredge Cherry, Editor

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Ms. Nancy Fackrell, Typesetting

Around The Fellowship

Praises

An estimated 1,000 demonstrators, including **Rev. Tam Schult**, pastor of **MCC of the Gulf Coast** in Biloxi, MS and many other MCCers, marched in Biloxi, MS, Sept. 19 for the right to hold lesbian/gay organizational meetings in Ocean Springs, MS. A full report will be included in the November *Keeping in Touch.*

The **Hawaii MCCs** are cooperating with the American Civil Liberties Union in advocacy at public hearings throughout the islands on legalization of lesbian/gay marriages.

The **United Church of Christ**, one of the largest U.S. denominations with 1.6 million members, overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting **UFMCC** at its national conference in July. **Rev. David Jarvis**, pastor of **MCC Hartford**, CT, and a transfer clergy candidate from the UCC, was instrumental in securing passage of this historic resolution.

MCC of Washington, DC, and architect **Suzane Reatig** received one of only 13 International Awards for Architectural Design being presented in the U.S. and Canada this year by the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art and Architecture, a division of the American Institute of Architects. MCC Washington's new Ministry Center was honored in the category of New Construction.

A variety of **MCCs** in the United States are participating in **National Coming Out Day** services Oct. 11.

Lesbians and gay men in **New Zealand** won protection from discrimination in jobs, housing, education and the provision of goods and services. The parliamentary voted to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation 48-26 on July 28.

After months of controversy, **Vision of Hope MCC**, Mountville, PA, had a huge attendance including many community leaders at its first worship service in its new building, reported **Rev. Mary Merriman**, pastor.

Prayers

Rev. Richard Mickley, pastor of **MCC Manila**, Philippines, is recuperating well after surgery in August.

Prayers are requested for **Ms. Mary Moore**, pastoral leader of **MCC Charleston**, SC, on the recent death of her mother.

Rev. Felicia Fontaine, clergy on staff at **MCC Huntsville**, AL, has been very ill for several months and faces a continuing battery of diagnostic tests.

Rev. Ken Bland of the Mid-Central District was hospitalized recently.

Ms. Jackie Hallett, pastoral leader of **MCC North Pines**, Yelm, WA, underwent total knee replacement surgery Aug. 24.

Transitions

Rev. Christen Chew was installed Sept. 11 as pastor of **Sunrise MCC of the Hi Desert**, Lancaster, CA.

Rev. Karon VanGelder became pastor of **Holy Covenant MCC**, Hinsdale, IL, effective Sept. 15.

Rev. Marion Harrison was installed Sept. 12 as senior pastor of **MCC of the Palm Beaches**, West Palm Beach, FL.

Rev. Kaye Lee was elected pastor at **New Horizons MCC**, Oklahoma City, OK.

MCC Portland, OR, selected **Rev. Dennis Chappell** as pastor.

River of Life MCC, Richland, WA, selected **Rev. Susan Corso** as pastor. She is a transfer clergy candidate from Unity.

The following pastors resigned recently: **Rev. Charles Larson, All God's Children MCC**, Minneapolis, MN; **Rev. Jim Dowing, New Life MCC**, Tidewater, VA; **Rev. Sherre Boothman, MCC in the Valley**, N. Hollywood, CA; **Rev. Don Magill, MCC of the Siskiyous**, Medford, OR; and **Rev. Paul Turner, Good Samaritan Parish MCC**, Toledo, OH.

Top 20 Tithes - Aug 1993

1.	Sunshine Cathedral MCC, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	US$	3,243.93
2.	MCC of the Resurrection, Houston, TX		2,701.31
3.	MCC Toronto, Ontario, Canada	CAN $	2,350.33
4.	MCC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA		2,119.60
5.	St. Luke's MCC, Jacksonville, FL		1,875.43
6.	Church of the Trinity MCC, Sarasota, FL		1,369.14
7.	MCC of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City, MO		1,331.04
8.	Agape' MCC, Ft. Worth, TX		1,231.68
9.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		1,206.80
10.	MCC Tampa, Tampa, FL		1,115.91
11.	MCC New York, New York, NY		1,104.67
12.	Church of Our Savior MCC, Boca Raton, FL		1,060.20
13.	River City MCC, Sacramento, CA		1,025.97
14.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		911.13
15.	MCC Richmond, Richmond, VA		813.43
16.	First MCC of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA		742.52
17.	Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX		698.38
18.	MCC Louisville, Louisville, KY		678.50
19.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		648.16
20.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX		635.02

{These figures reflect the 10 percent of each local church's monthly income that is reported to Fellowship headquarters.}

Top 20 Per Capita - Aug 1993

1.	MCC Hartford, Hartford, CT	US $	43.24
2.	MCC Manilla, Manilla, Philippines		38.00
3.	MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, Vancouver, WA		36.04
4.	MCC Silverlake, Los Angeles, CA		33.33
5.	MCC Johnson County, Lenexa, KS		32.50
6.	Harvest MCC, Denton, TX		32.44
7.	Christ the Redeemer MCC, Evanston, IL		30.95
8.	MCC in Charlottesville, Charlottesville, VA		24.26
9.	MCC/Lower Mainland, Maple Ridge, BC	CAN $	23.81
10.	Open Arms MCC, Rochester, NY		22.83
11.	New Life MCC, Charlotte, NC		22.77
12.	Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA		22.76
13.	Pikes Peak MCC, Colorado Springs, CO		21.95
14.	MCC Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM		21.75
15.	Maranatha Fellowship MCC, Houston, TX		21.24
16.	Morning Star MCC, Cherry Valley, MA		21.06
17.	Open Door MCC, Boyds, MD		20.58
18.	MCC of Northern Virginia, Falls Church, VA		19.76
19.	MCC New York, New York City, NY		19.59
20.	New Life MCC, Berkeley, CA		18.33

{These figures reflect average individual weekly offerings to the local church.}

Madukas Safe

Rev. Sylvanus Maduka and his wife Philomena were not harmed during the civil unrest that prevented them from attending General Conference XVI in July.

"I regret that my wife and I have missed the great opportunity to be with other brethren at the Pointe for the General Conference," wrote Rev. Maduka, church extension coordinator for Nigeria. He explained that it was "mission impossible" to secure a visa to travel from Nigeria to the United States during the political crisis. ❐

Cancer Alert

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the United States, and two MCCs have announced plans to fight the disease.

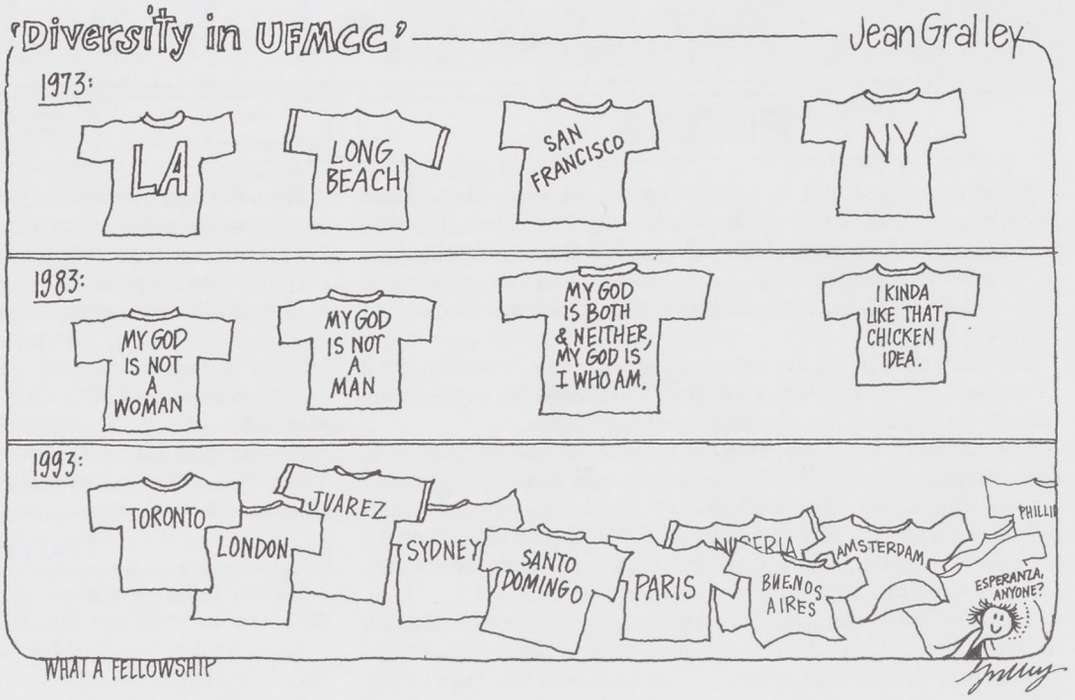
Often called "the other epidemic," breast cancer takes a high toll among lesbians.

MCC Eugene, OR, began a new benevolence fund *For Women with Breast Cancer*. "Many years ago we began our *AIDS Love Fund*," said Rev. Marguerite Scroggie, pastor. "Our new benevolence fund will assist women who are living with breast cancer in many of the same ways."

Cathedral of Hope MCC, Dallas, TX, has scheduled a variety of events in October to provide education about breast cancer and also to raise money for early detection. ❐

Flood Aid

The Mid-Central District has requested assistance for MCCers affected by the flooding in July and August. "So far as we can determine, none of our people have lost property to the floods," said Rev. Bob Arthur, Mid-Central District Coordinator. The money collected will be used for MCC members who lost their jobs because of flood damage to their former places of employment. Checks may be sent to Mid-Central District Flood Aid Fund, P.O. Box 8094, Wichita Falls, TX 76307. ❐



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BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

The Network of men who formed around Reverend Ken Martin's General Conference workshop, "Healing Your Divine Gay Child," has published its first newsletter. All gay men in UFMCC who did not attend the Saturday session in Phoenix are invited to join by sending name, mailing address and phone number to: HYDGC, PO Box 92286, Long Beach, CA 90809-2286.

Women who discovered lesbianism after 40, your story needed for survey/book. Confidential. Participants get survey results. Write Late Bloomers, P.O. Box 691281, Stockton, CA 95269-1281.

Alternative Investor - the investment newsletter that doesn't discriminate. For more information and the latest issue send $5 to 3712 North Broadway #169, Chicago, IL 60613.

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The World/Names T-shirt from the MCC Ventura booth at General Conference now available for one-time, pre-paid orders received by October 30, 1993. Send size(s) and $15.00 per shirt to: Christy Cantrell, P.O. Box 5757, Ventura, CA 93005-5757.

ORGANIZATIONS

HIV+, ARC, AIDS - POSITIVELY FRIENDS, contacts nationwide, published quarterly for over two years, information/sample issue, send SASE to: Positively Friends, PO Box 4262, Boulder, CO 80306-4262. Confidentiality assured.

REMINDER: Responses to the Elder's Task Force on Structures and Systems Study Guide are due by June 1, 1994.

A networking group for MCCers with disabilities, especially the visually impaired, is forming. For information, contact Rev. George McDermott, P.O. Box 17187, Main Street Station, Worcester, MA 01601-7187; phone (508) 795-1118.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

MCC Las Vegas, is seeking a F/T Pastor. Qualified persons should send a resume', or contact the Pastoral Search Committee at 1119 South Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89103.

Help us reach new spiritual heights. Established, commissioned church of 20 years with great potential seeks long-term pastor to lead congregation in promoting growth. Purchasing 80 year old building which includes pastors apartment. Strong administrative board exists. Please send resumes by November 15th to: Sacred Light of Christ MCC, Box 11321, Salt Lake City, UT 84147.

VCMCC New Orleans, Diverse, Dynamic, growing church seeking a pastor to grow with us. Inquire: Pastoral Search, VCMCC, 1128 St. Roch, New Orleans, LA 70117.

Northwest District seeks person with successful pastoral and administrative skills for District Coordinator beginning May 1994 for a 3 year term. An Assistant District Coordinator is presently acting as interim coordinator. Contact Rev. Larry Whitsell, 1050 Oak Grove Road #23, Concord, CA 94518 USA, (510) 685-0841. Deadline for application packet request is 11/15/93.

Established Christ Chapel MCC Santa Ana looking for dynamic FULL-TIME pastor to fill pulpit in Orange County G/L Community of 300,000+. Replies confidential. To: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 3512, Tustin, California 92681.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Jerry J. Bigner, Ph.D. Nationally known gay/lesbian parenting researcher - University Professor available as expert witness in custody/divorce proceedings to help protect your rights. P.O. Box 101142, Denver, CO 80250-1142/(303) 941-3783.

Correction

MCC of the Gentle Shepherd, which ranked third in the "Top 20 Per Capita" for May 1993, is in Vancouver, WA. Its location was listed incorrectly in the July issue. ❐